

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

INTRODUCTION

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The petitioner receives ANFC and child support totaling \$679 a month.
2. On April 11, 2001 the petitioner had some dental work done and paid her dentist \$165. She applied for GA on April 20, 2001 because she thought she wouldn't have enough money to pay her rent and other expenses due on May 1, 2001. The Department denied this application because the petitioner was not facing an emergency situation.
3. The petitioner paid her rent on May 1, but was left short paying her other bills. At the hearing in this matter, held on June 7, 2001, the petitioner stated she thought she would soon receive a disconnect notice for her phone service.

The petitioner was advised that she could reapply for GA if she was facing an imminent termination of any essential service and that the Department would evaluate her eligibility for GA at that time.¹

ORDER

The Department's decision is affirmed.

REASONS

As an adult with minor dependents who has had income within the last 30 days at or in excess of the ANFC payment level qualifies for GA only if she can show that she is facing a "catastrophic situation". WAM § 2602 defines "catastrophic situation" as an emergency need attributable to one of four causes: death of a spouse or child, a court-ordered or constructive eviction, a natural disaster, or an emergency medical need. As noted above, the petitioner is not facing any of these situations.

In light of the above, the Department's denial of GA appears to have been fully in accord with the pertinent

¹ Under the regulations (see *infra*) the interruption of any service would have to constitute a medical emergency.

regulations. Therefore, the Board is bound by law to affirm that decision. 3 V.S.A. § 3091(d) and Fair Hearing Rule No. 17.

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